GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:84
ANSWERED ON:12.07.2004
SCARCITY OF WATER
Chandel Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is scarcity of water for irrigation in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether various ponds, canals and rivers all over the country have not been desilted for the last many years;

(d) if so, whether the Government is formulating any time bound scheme in this regard; and

(e) if so, by when it is likely to be formulated and implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF STARRED QUESTION No. +84 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 12.7.2004 REGARDING SCARCITY OF WATER.

(a) & (b) The average annual water availability in the country (surface and replenishable groundwater) has been assessed as 1869 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) and out of this, about 1122 BCM (690 BCM from surface water and 432 from groundwater) can be utilized for meeting diverse demands. The present utilization has been estimated to be of the order of 605 BCM out of which about 83% is for irrigation purposes. For meeting the increasing demand for water, thre are a number of projects under execution, development or planning. As far as the areas where irrigation projects exist, the water requirements, by and large, have been met. However, there is spatial unevenness and temporal variation in rainfall which leads to scarcity situation in different areas at different times. The per capita availability of water is also reducing due to growth in population of the country. There are perennially water scarce areas in the country which have been identified as drought prone area. The State-wise details of these drought prone areas is at Annex.

(c) to (e) Irrigation being a State subject, the irrigation projects are planned, executed and maintained by the respective State Government. The operation and maintenance including desilting of ponds, canals, rivers etc is also the responsibility of respective State Government.

There are a number of traditional water harvesting structures in the form of ponds and water tanks etc. throughout the country which have gone under disuse mainly due to siltation. The Government has recognized the need of desilting of these water bodies and the same is included in the Common Minimum Programme also. The need for restoring these bodies has also been highlighted in the Budget Speech of the Union Finance Minister and for the current year, a provision of Rs. 100 crore was announced for this activity by the Finance Minister as a pilot scheme.

ANNEX

STATEWISE DETAILS OF DROUGHT PRONE AREAS AS PER CWC `S STUDY

(Annex in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.+ 84 for 12.7.2004)

Sl. No.	State / District	No. of Talukas affected by drought	Area affected by drought (sq km)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	32839.51
2.	Gujarat	103	106818.40

3.	Haryana	8	8338.50
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	2407.60
5.	Karnataka	42	57645.54
6.	Madhya Pradesh	26	37307.93
7	Maharashtra	45	57664.70
8.	Orissa	1	2002.07
9.	Rajasthan	57	194203.27
10.	Tamil Nadu	8	7451.66
11.	Uttar Pradesh	4	4609.40